

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN STEVE VICK**, on February 8, 2001 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Steve Vick, Chairman (R)
Rep. Dave Lewis, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Matt McCann, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. John Brueggeman (R)
Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas (D)
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)
Rep. Edith Clark (R)
Rep. Bob Davies (R)
Rep. Stanley Fisher (R)
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)
Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)
Rep. Jeff Pattison (R)
Rep. Art Peterson (R)
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)
Rep. John Witt (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Paula Broadhurst, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 468, HB 303, 2/8/01.
Executive Action: None.

HEARING ON HB 468

Sponsor: Rep. Kathleen Galvin-Halcro, HD 48.

Proponents: Michael Spence, Department of Public Health and Human Services; Douglas Baldwin, Montana Speech Language and Hearing Association and MAG; Ben Havdahl, Montana State Coordinator for Self Help for Harder Hearing People; Paula Petersen, Audiologist in Butte, Mt.; Bob Olsen, Montana Hospital Association; Wendy Williams, Nurse at St. Peters Hospital; Mary Anne Molinoux, Speech Language Pathologist in Helena, Mt.; Jim Smith, Montana Speech Language and Hearing Association.

Opponents: None.

Informational Witnesses: None.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Galvin-Halcro said this bill is a universal newborn infant hearing screening, tracking and intervention act. The bill will provide for early detection of hearing loss in newborn children at the birthing facility or as soon after the birth as possible. She handed out amendments to HB 468, **EXHIBIT(aph32a01)**, and written testimony in support, **EXHIBIT(aph32a02)**, **EXHIBIT(aph32a03)**.

Proponents' Testimony:

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 3.6}

Michael Spence said he supports HB 468, the newborn hearing and screening bill. He handed out a hearing facts sheet, **EXHIBIT(aph32a04)**. He said newborn screening was conducted in Montana in 1997. However, it was far from universal. One thing that is critically important is to recognize people that are delivering most of the babies and know the impotence of this project have been in the larger hospitals. In the state of Montana over 200 children are born every year with some kind of hearing impairment that needs care.

Douglas Baldwin handed out a summary of what other states are doing, **EXHIBIT(aph32a05)**. He also handed out letters of support for HB 468, **EXHIBIT(aph32a06)**, **EXHIBIT(aph32a07)**.

Ben Havdahl said SHHH is a volunteer international non-profit educational organization of hard of hearing people devoted to the

welfare and interest of those who cannot hear well. He handed in testimony of support, **EXHIBIT (aph32a08)**.

Paula Petersen spoke about Colorado compared to Montana on intervention screening programs. She supports HB 468.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 19.5}

Bob Olsen said their members stand in support of HB 468.

Wendy Williams said Montana Nurses Association strongly supports HB 468. She spoke of personal experiences with hearing impaired in her family.

Mary Anne Molinoux said she has seen many children who's hearing losses were not diagnosed until they were 2 years old or later. She handed in testimony of support, **EXHIBIT (aph32a09)**. She is a member of the Montana Speech Language Hearing Association and they also support HB 468.

Jim Smith said he supports HB 468 and would be happy to get any information for the committee pursuant to this hearing. He spoke about SB 360 also.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 1.4}

Rep. Kasten asked **Dr. Spence** if the screening test takes just a minute or so, then why have public policy such as HB 468, why not have hospital policy. **Dr. Spence** said there have been strong advocates all along the way. He said they do not have the ability to go out and address those children born out of hospitals, which constitutes a fair number in our state. There are going to be children missed because of early discharge.

Rep. Buzzas asked **Dr. Spence** what the \$100,000 in the bill would be used for. **Dr. Spence** said they need the money to purchase the equipment. Each piece of equipment could cost from \$6,000 to \$12,000 depending on the sophistication of the equipment.

Rep. Buzzas asked **Mr. Havdahl** if SB 360 is the same amount of money. **Mr. Havdahl** said the way the telecommunications program works, they purchase the equipment and provide it on a long-term permanent loan to the recipients.

Rep. Davies asked **Dr. Spence** about information on a handout and asked if this was an awareness problem. **Dr. Spence** said that was correct and they want to continue to have the activity in place so the screening gets done and also they would work with the parents in an educational mode.

Rep. Davies asked **Dr. Spence** if there was another way to do this without getting Government involved. **Dr. Spence** said unfortunately the way to screen children requires electronic equipment. He said to screen clinically they miss children, they do not get identified until later on in life and this electronic equipment is necessary to be sure to identify these children as early as possible so interventions can take place.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 11.7}

Rep. Lindeen asked **Dr. Spence** about some of the material handed out where it mentioned all large hospitals do this and now have routine screening. How many kids are routinely screened and how many are missed. **Dr. Spence** said at the current time they are screening a large number of children. A little over half of the children born in Montana, around 6,000 children were screened last year. There were 11,070 children born in Montana last year.

Rep. Vick made a statement to **Mr. Olsen** about the program purchasing the machines and parent's perspectives.

Mr. Olsen explained state policies and state mandates.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 17.2}

Rep. Lindeen asked **Mr. Olsen** about state mandates for these tests and if these tests are also run through the Department of Public Health and Human Services. **Mr. Olsen** said the PKU test for example goes to the state lab, so the hospitals are under state mandate to draw the blood samples.

Rep. Vick asked **Mr. Olsen** what the cost would be to the parent to have this test done. **Mr. Olsen** said he wasn't sure, but he would find out. He explained the process of the testing.

Rep. Buzzas asked **Mr. Olsen** if state medicaid pays for these services. **Mr. Olsen** said medicaid pays a flat rate to hospitals for delivering babies, it would not matter how many dollars of charges they put on their claim, those charges would not deal with higher payment by the department.

Rep. McCann asked **Dr. Spence** how many communities need this equipment, and how many communities already have it. **Dr. Spence**

said Helena, Butte, Great Falls, Missoula, Billings, Richland County Hospital in Sidney, Bozeman, and Miles City all have equipment at the current time.

Rep. McCann asked **Mr. Baldwin** about spreading the equipment around the state so more people could get these services. **Mr. Baldwin** said they want to reach every child they can.

Rep. Davies asked **Mr. Baldwin** about parent's refusing to get screening. **Mr. Baldwin** said they have 2 out of 2,000 refusing screening.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.2}

Rep. Lindeen asked **Dr. Spence** if SB 360 passes, on Page 2, Lines 11-12, about the department may accept contributions, gifts, grants, etc. Would that still be necessary if SB 360 passed.

Dr. Spence said at the current time they can only estimate what the current equipment needs will be and how far a given amount of money will go.

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Galvin-Halcro said she knows there is a solution to this problem and that is SB 360 and hopes they will look favorably on HB 468.

HEARING ON HB 303

Sponsor: Rep. Joey Jayne, HD 73.

Proponents: Rachel Herrin, Glasgow; Cindy Weese, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; Tootie Welker, Sanders County Coalition For Families; Beth Blakeman-Pohl, Womens Resource Center of Glasgow; Caroline Fleming, Custer Network Against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault; Helen Schmitt, Richland County Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Opponents: None.

Informational Witnesses: None.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 4.2}

Rep. Jayne said this bill basically transfers \$375,000 for each of the years of the biennium of the general funding and that

would be to the presently existing civil legal assistance for indigent victims for domestic abuse.

Proponents' Testimony:

Rachel Herrin spoke of personal experiences of abuse. She handed in testimony, **EXHIBIT(aph32a10)**, supporting HB 303.

Cindy Weese said as a state we are doing a pretty good job of making crisis intervention services available to victims. She said HB 303 provides funding for critical legal services. **EXHIBIT(aph32a11)**.

Tootie Welker said she supports HB 303, she handed in testimony, **EXHIBIT(aph32a12)**.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 18}

Beth Blakeman-Pohl said their counties are large and the people they serve come from remote areas. The legal services are very hard for them when there is only one county attorney and one other attorney in town. She supports HB 303.

Caroline Fleming spoke of abuse that happened to a woman she counseled. She supports HB 303.

Helen Schmitt said they support HB 303. She handed in testimony, **EXHIBIT(aph32a13)**.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 1.7}

Rep. Kasten asked **Rep. Jayne** about getting help with funding from attorneys. **Rep. Jayne** said the problem is, the county attorneys, depending on their work load, and whether or not there is criminal charges filed against the perpetrator, she doesn't know if they would want to get involved in helping the victim also.

Closing by Sponsor:

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 7.4}

Rep. Jayne said this bill takes up the slack after the victim has been provided with safety, food, shelter and transportation.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:55 P.M.

REP. STEVE VICK, Chairman

PAULA BROADHURST, Secretary
Transcribed by Donna Huffman

SV/PB/DH

EXHIBIT (aph32aad)